

Spy Charge Shocks U. S. Girl

Disgusting, Not True, She Says of Soviets' Story

By Lewis Lapham

A Radcliffe girl, who doesn't even wear much make-up, arrived home from Russia yesterday to learn she has been identified as a "girl spy" in a Soviet newspaper.

Informed of the charge at Idlewild Airport Joan Barth, twenty-six, told reporters, "I am considerably amazed and distressed. It's a bombshell . . . disgusting . . . absolutely no truth in it."

Miss Barth, a graduate student in political science was accused in Thursday's edition of "Komsomolskaya Pravda," newspaper of the Young Communist League. All the time she was demonstrating refrigerators at the American Exhibition in Moscow last summer, the newspaper reported, Miss Barth was also spying.

The paper said Miss Barth attempted to induce Soviet youths to collect secret information for her, offering them chewing gum and rock 'n' roll records.

Miss Barth was surprised by the charges because during her most recent stay in the Soviet Union nobody, officially, or unofficially, mentioned any such thing to her, nor was she ordered out of Russia. She left



Joan Barth after her arrival yesterday at Idlewild Airport

the country Aug. 7 and then traveled in Europe before flying home from Amsterdam. It was her third trip to the U. S. S. R.

Reds' Story

The Soviet paper published the accusations against Miss Barth as part of its running story about the escapades of two sturdy Communist youths, Vyacheslav Repnikov and Rosalav Ribkin. Both boys, the paper said, had been recruited as spies by Richard Lane, of Los Angeles.

Miss Barth, according to the charges, made contact with Repnikov near the side entrance of the Metropole Hotel and gave him twenty-five free tickets to the American Exhibition in return for which he was to gather information about the location of scientific institutes, the system of registration of reserve officers, and economic life on collective farms in the Tula region.

"Pleasant Time"

"I don't even know where the Tula region is," Miss Barth said yesterday. She said she knew Repnikov as a "friend" and may have given him some tickets and literature, such as copies of "Life" magazine.

Of her recent visit in Russia Miss Barth who lives at 155 E. 38th St., said, "I had a very pleasant time. Everything was very friendly and untroubled."

Her father, Harry Barth, who met her at the airport, was also upset by the Soviet accusations. "My daughter," he said, "was sent to the Soviet Union to promote good will and was instructed by the State Department. I know my daughter, and there is absolutely no basis for the spy charge."

Reds Blame Dulles

The Soviet paper said Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, tried to "poison our youth" by having his agents distribute pornographic books, jazz records, and photographs of Hollywood actresses. The Russian definition of a pornographic book includes any paperback advertised by a bosomy cover.

The distribution of such "ideological diversions," said the newspaper, is subversive to the same degree as sending spy planes over the Soviet Union.